

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CU-02 BIB-01 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 /047 W  
-----151312Z 089374 /53

R 150947Z ZPR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725  
INFORUFHJA/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 992  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AXXASSY PRAGUE 1658  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0778

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CSCE, BU  
SUBJECT WESTERN NEWSPAPERS APPEAR IN SOFIA

USIA PASS IEU AND IBS/PE

REF: PRAGUE 881

1. WESTERN PERIODICALS APPEARED ON SALE IN SOFIA APRIL 11  
OR 12, IN MAJOR HOTELS AND IN A FEW STREET KIOSKS. THEY  
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INCLUDE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, LE MONDE, CORRIERE  
DELLA SERA, SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG (MUNICH), AND  
ARBEITER-ZEITUNG (VIENNA).

2. PRICES ARE STIFF. LE MONDE SELLS FOR 45 STOTINKI (47 CENTS)  
AND TRIBUNE FOR 95 STOTINIKI (NEARLY \$1.00). EACH OUTLET

SEEMS TO HAVE 5-10 COPIES OF EACH PAPER. THEY ARE ABOUT  
3-4 DAYS OLD.

3. AT HOTEL PARK MOSKVA, WESTERN PAPERS WERE CLEARLY ON VIEW,  
BUT BEHIND COUNTER, AROUND CORNER FROM DESK WHICH SELLS  
FOREIGN COMMUNIST PUBLICATIONS.

4. EMBOFF TALKED WITH TWO BULGARIANS WHO HAD PURCHASED  
PAPERS, ONE AT HOTEL BALKAN AND OTHER AT A KIOSK. THEY SAID  
THAT THEY HAD EXPERIENCED NO DIFFICULTY NOR UNDUE CURIOSITY.

5. COMMENT: SITUATION IN HOTELS MAY PROVE SOME  
BARRIER TO GENERALLY GUN-SHY BULGARIANS BUT KIOSKS ARE  
SUFFICIENTLY IMPERSONAL TO PRESENT NO BARRIER. COST OF  
PAPERS IS HIGH FOR A DAILY PAPER (LOCAL PAPERS COST 3 CENTS  
EACH),AND AGE OF PAPERS MAY INDICATE THEY WERE SCREENED  
BEFORE BEING RELEASED FOR SALE. (LE MONDES WERE FOLDED IN  
SUCH A WAY TO INDICATE THEY HAD BEEN MAILED WHICH COULD ALSO  
EXPLAIN LATENESS.)

6. PRESENCE OF PAPERS IS IN ANY CASE A WELCOME SIGN OF  
GOB BELGRADE-CONSCIOUSNESS. A BULGARIAN JOURNALIST ARCHLY  
SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN EMBASSIES NOT BUY THE PAPERS TO LEAVE  
THEM FOR BULGARIANS.  
HERZ

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NEWSPAPERS, PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT, REPORTS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SOFIA00778  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 PRAGUE 881  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2664065  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 970829  
**Subject:** WESTERN NEWSPAPERS APPEAR IN SOFIA USIA PASS IEU AND IBS/PE  
**TAGS:** SOPN, BU, XT, CSCE, PFOR, SOPN  
**To:** BERLIN STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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